



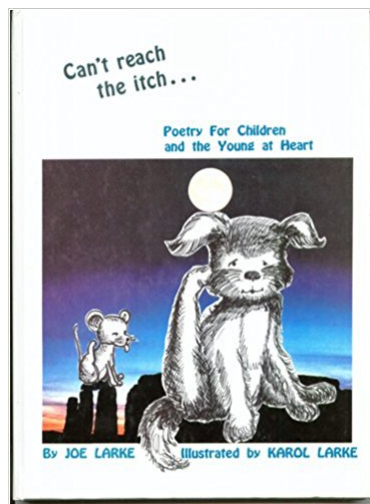
Children's Poetry Books

Tara Hargrove

Sam Houston State University

Larke, Joe (1988). *Can't reach the itch: Poetry for children and the young at heart*. Rockwall, TX:

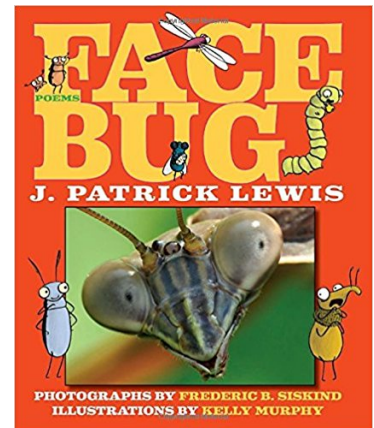
GRIN-A-BIT Company.



everyday life can lend itself to poetry. In this witty book of poems, he creates poems about things that children encounter every day, whether it's when they don't get their way, or they can't get untangled, or they burn toast. He creates pleasant and fun poetry for everyone. Larke's poems are relatable and easy to read and understand.

Lewis, J. Patrick (2013). *Face Bug*. Honesdale, PA: WordSong

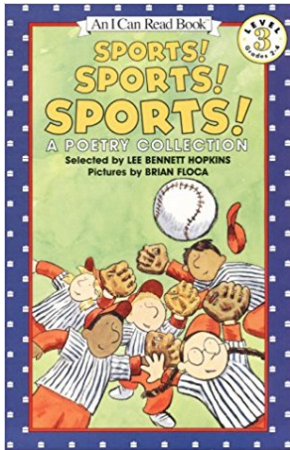
This adorable and witty book of poems begins with a poem introducing "The Face Bug Museum" to all the other bugs and invites them to come on in. Each page and each poem is about a different insect and the images that are drawn are of small insects checking out some amazing insects up close and personal. With each poem is a zoomed in photo of the actual bugs face. While this book is of poems, it's also full of useful facts about each bug.



Hopkins, Lee Bennett (1999). *Sports! Sports! Sports!: A poetry collection*. New York, NY:

HarperCollins Publishers.

This collection of poems is all things sports, from basketball to baseball, and soccer to

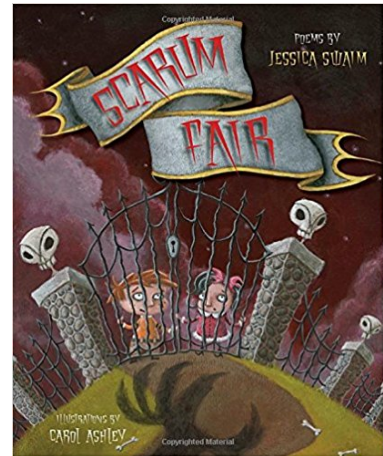


track. This book is full of poems about sports and children and is made up of many authors. Poetry can be difficult or scary for children to read, but books of poems such as this one, make it more fun and less abrasive. These poems use simple language that is easy to understand, however they also use great figurative language such as similes, metaphors and vivid verbs. This would be a fantastic book to showcase how simple figurative language can be to

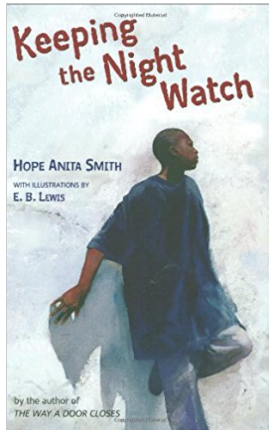
use in any type of writing and for any audience.

Swaim, Jessica (2010). *Scarum fair*. Honesdale, PA: WordSong

Some like a good scare, even when it comes to poetry. The book, *Scarum Fair*, is full of dark, humorous poems about a creepy fair for children. She puts a spooky spin on the carnival rides and writes about tattoos coming alive from the tattoo artist. Ice cream won't have the same chilly effect, once you read her poem I-Scream. This is a wickedly delightful book that children will find funny but sinister as well.



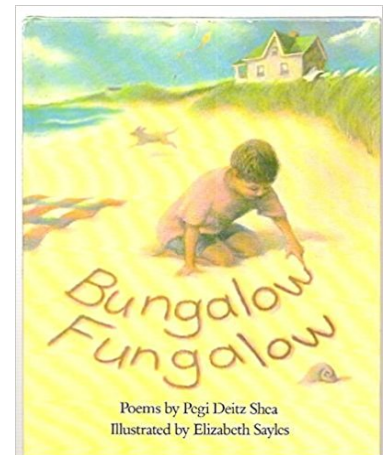
Smith, Hope Anita (2008). *Keeping the night watch*. New York, NY: Square Fish



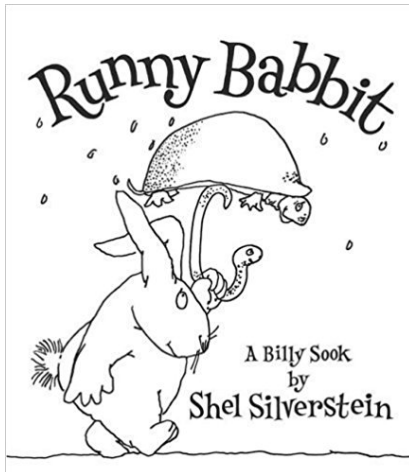
Emotion provoking. Your eyes will not be dry after reading the poems in this book. *Keeping the Night Watch* is from the point of view of a boy whose daddy left and then returned. He is angry and doesn't understand why he is back and why he pretends nothing happened. The poems are written in two sections, one being *Fall* and one being *Spring*. His words evoke empathy from someone who understands the same hurt all too well and will give a different outlook to someone who hasn't been abandoned by a parent. It's amazing how even children's poems can teach such life lessons on how treat others and how we want to be treated in return.

Shea, Pegi Deitz (1991). *Bungalow fungalow*. New York, NY: Clarion Books.

A story through a series of poems; this book will put a grin on anyone's face. A little boy named Billy receives a letter from his grandparents inviting him to come to the beach and stay for a week. Each poem is about a different part of the story, from him going home and starting to pack, to the road trip he takes, to what he does while he's there and then ends with his last day. It is an endearing book that can show children how stories can be told through poems.



Silverstein, Shel (2005). *Runny babbit*. New York, NY: HaperCollins Publishers.

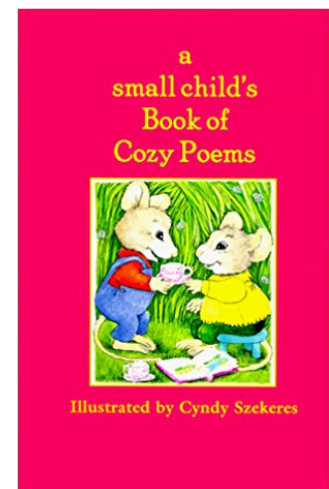


This “billy sook” was apparently a work in progress by Silverstein for over 20 years. Similar to other poetry books for children, but a little different than his normal style, this book’s poems all have a central theme; it is centered around a family of rabbits and they reverse the first letter of each word with another word in the same sentence. So instead of “silly book,” you get “billy sook.” Talking

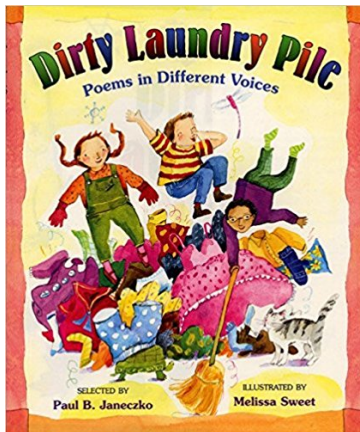
about this book with fourth graders, they said they enjoyed this poetry book because it was fun trying to decipher what the poem was really trying to say. It made them stop and think about what they were reading. This is a clever book and is silly of course. Perfect for any age.

Szekeres, Cyndy (1999). *A small child’s book of cozy poems*. New York, NY: Scholastic Inc.

Children can get a feel for all sorts of poetry by reading this book compiled with many wonderful authors such as Langston Hughes, Margaret Wise Brown and Jane Yolen. Although the authors are not just children’s literature authors, the poems chosen for this book are appropriate for even young children to comprehend. Although the poems are not written by the same author throughout, it is somewhat like a storyline, beginning with a poem called *Morning* and ending with *Bedtime* and *Day is Done*. This would be perfect book for nighttime reading with young children.



Janeczko, Paul B. (2013). *Dirty laundry pile: Poems in different voices*. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers.

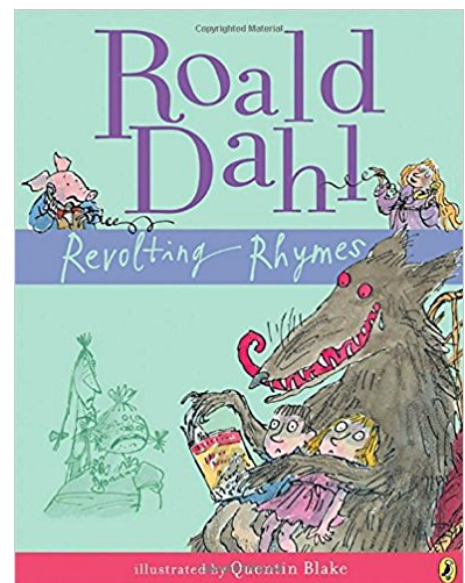


In this book each poem takes on a point of view from a thing, object or animal. Persona or mask poems describe this style of poetry. Each poem is written like the author is being the object. One poem, *Dirty Laundry Pile*, is short and sweet and written from the point of view of a pile of dirty clothes. Another poem is maple trees talking about getting planted and their leaves coming and going. This book would

be a fantastic tool to use to teach and show personification and point of view.

Dahl, Roald (2013). *Revolting rhymes*. New York, NY: Penguins Young Readers Group.

Roald Dahl is an absolute favorite of many children around the world. His work usually has a dark and humorous spin on it and this book of rhyming stories is no different. You will find several children's classic tales in this book or poems, but each is written by Dahl with morbid, but funny details and an added twist. For instance, in his poem *Little Red Riding and the Wolf*, the character, Red Riding Hood can handle things on her own when she discovers that her granny has been eaten and replaced by the terrible wolf. She simply shoots him and then gets herself a new fur coat out of it. This book will leave you laughing as well as gawking at the incredible details added.



Resources:

All photos of books taken from www.amazon.com.